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TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Colton Kaylor smile? "He smiles most when playing outside, especially at local parks, and when interacting with animals (pets and at the zoo), and (when eating) cookies," said the then 3-year-old Noblesville boy's mom. He was found with his parents, Kenny and Ashleigh Kaylor, and sister, Makenna, then 1, and grandparents and uncle, attending the 2019 Conner Prairie Headless Horseman Halloween festival in Fishers. It was his first time at Headless Horseman. Favorite activity? Making the White River Monster craft. Favorite food? "I want to eat tacos." Favorite movie? "Toy Story." Favorite color? "Red." He likes to ride his bicycle and wear his helmet. He also likes to play outdoors and ride a John Deere Gator with Grandpa. Favorite toy? "Bulldozer." Favorite cartoon character? "Rolly from Puppy Dog Pals." Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County.

And Another Thing...

1. Travel Watch

Hamilton County Emergency Management (HCEM) issued a Travel Watch today at 6 a.m. The forecast remains consistent with steady winds over 30 mph and gusts near 50 mph. The falling and blowing snow will likely result in white-out conditions for Hamilton County early Friday through Saturday. The Travel Watch also corresponds with the National Weather Service's Winter Storm Watch and HCEM standard operating procedures. A Travel Watch means that conditions threaten the public's safety. Only essential travel, such as to and from work or in an emergency situation, is recommended, and emergency action plans should be implemented by businesses, schools, government agencies and other organizations. Learn more about the Travel Advisory system at in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory/

2. Closing Time

The holidays mean a few changes in schedules. For the most part, banks and government offices will be closed on Sunday and Monday, Christmas and the day after. This includes the U.S. Post Office as well. The same schedule follows a week later when New Year's Day falls on Sunday. Government offices and many businesses will also be closed Monday, Jan. 2. This also includes the U.S. Post Office.

For us at The Times, we don't have Sunday and Monday issues, so there are no changes for us. We will continue to publish Tuesday through Saturday. However, it is important to note that our offices will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 26 through Jan. 2. If you need something during that time, please e-mail Tim Timmons at ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Santa Tells His Stories

EDITOR'S NOTE: The intrepid staff at your favorite Hamilton County daily got in touch with Santa – and we're happy to share the following from the big man! If you want to know more about this particular Santa, go to indianasanta.com, with our compliments!

I was reading a story about letters to Santa today and thought I would share with you some fun stuff that Santa experiences when he is in person with the kids.

While working at a Cabella's in Noblesville a few years ago I had some interesting notes.

On one day, I had a 3 day old baby in my lap and an 81 year old lady who had never sat on Santa's lap to get pictures. She had been walking around the store when I found her and asked her to get a picture with Santa.

One young man came up to Santa and asked for a Nintendo Switch, PS-4, iPhone 11, X Box 1 and numerous other electronics. I told him that my elves do not do good with electronics. Remember the Samsung phones that all started on fire? Those were my elves. Remember the iPhones that had such a problem? Those were my elves. Remember the X-Boxes that kept on breaking? Those were my elves. So we don't do electronics anymore. Is there anything else? He said OK, how about a coloring book?

A young mom, in her mid-20's, came to visit Santa with her 7 or 8 month old child who



Photo courtesy of Indianasanta.com

Santa and Mrs. Claus stand together on their front porch. Santa has been getting ready all year for his big day!

started screaming the minute she tried to hand him over to me. I suggested Mom sit in my chair with the child and I would stand nearby. She had a strange request. She had a string with letters tied to it that spelled out CHRISTMAS. She asked me to hold that in front of her for the

picture. Because she was sitting, I held it over her head. She said her husband had the rest of the string with the letters MERRY on it. I looked around for Dad but I didn't see him. I said to her let's find Dad and he can

➔ See SANTA Page A7

Buckingham Recognizes Top Officers

Each year, Hamilton County Prosecutor D. Lee Buckingham II recognizes two officers in honor of each Hamilton County officer's distinguished service to the community and the pursuit of justice. Buckingham recognized Sergeant Wade Burtron of the Westfield Police Department and Officer Jensen Marie Fionda of the Cicero Police Department for their exemplary work throughout the year.

One investigator (usually holding an assignment as a detective) and one patrol officer are selected from the nominations garnered from within the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

At a ceremony held yesterday in the Commissioner's Courtroom at the Hamilton County Judicial Center, Buckingham spoke before a gathered crowd of law enforcement officers, prosecutor's office staff and members of the winners' families. Hamilton County and its communities have consistently



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County

After a ceremony yesterday, Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney D. Lee Buckingham II (second from right) stands with the 2022 Officer of the Year honorees Sergeant Wade Burtron (second from left), Officer Jensen Marie Fionda (left) and Detective Gregory Loveall (right).

been recognized among the safest places to work, live and raise a family.

This has been all the more remarkable when, during the last twelve years, the county added almost 85,000 people to its population – a number that

would by itself be in the top twenty counties in Indiana by population.

Citing an analysis conducted by SafeWise, Prosecutor Buckingham said, "Year after year,

➔ See OFFICERS Page A7

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:02 a.m.
SET: 5:21 p.m.

High/Low
Temperatures
HIGH: 40 °F
LOW: 30 °F

Today is....

- Abilities Day
- National Cookie Exchange Day
- National Re-Gifting Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1894 The Dreyfus affair begins in France when Alfred Dreyfus is wrongly convicted of treason
- 1944 German troops demand the surrender of US troops at Bastogne, prompting the famous one word reply by General Anthony McAuliffe: "Nuts!"
- 1975 President Ford creates the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in response to the '70s energy crisis

Births On This Day

- 1912 Lady Bird Johnson American wife of Lyndon B. Johnson, 38th First Lady
- 1989 Jordin Sparks American singer-songwriter and actress

Deaths On This Day

- 1989 Samuel Beckett Irish/French author, playwright, director and Nobel Prize laureate
- 2002 Joe Strummer English singer-songwriter, guitarist and actor

Tips on How to Weather the Harsh Weather

The winter storm forecasted to hit Indiana this evening is expected to be a bad one. To help you prepare and stay safe, local utility companies, health experts and governments are offering tips to make sure you weather the weather!

Dr. Amit Arwindekar, medical director for United-Healthcare, discussed how holiday travelers (including those already vulnerable with health challenges) can stay as safe and healthy as possible during upcoming travel:

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TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

When you buy a plastic water bottle, make sure it's labeled "BPA-free." Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much."
- Henry David Thoreau

TODAY'S JOKE

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?
Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

HONEST HOOSIER

3 Hamilton County shopping days until Christmas. Hey, here's a great idea! How about getting someone a subscription to Hamilton County's favorite paper. You know, the one with, well, uh, . . . ME!



The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **MONICA ANDERSON** for subscribing!

OBITUARIES
Dr. Robert Clair Childress
Janice M. Musselman



OBITUARIES

Dr. Robert Clair Childress

February 22, 1929-December 17, 2022

Dr. Robert Clair Childress, 93, of Westfield, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 at Riverview Health in Noblesville.

He was born on Feb. 22, 1929 to Johnson and Mildred (Hall) Childress in Goodland, Indiana.

Dr. Childress proudly served his country as a Captain in the United States Army from 1956-1957 and was stationed in Bordeaux France where he met his beautiful wife Line. He graduated from IU in 1951 as a Phi Beta Kappa, and then from IU School of Medicine in 1954 with Alpha Omega Alpha honors.

He opened a private practice in Ocala, Florida from 1962-1982 and then moved to Bedford, Ind., where he practiced at the Bedford Medical Clinic for 23 years. Dr. Childress married Line Berr in France on April 4, 1957.

He loved being outside and tending to his garden, watching IU basketball, listening to classical music, playing euchre, and being with his dogs. He loved his family more than anything.

Survivors include his wife Line Childress; son Eric (Cynthia) Childress; 3 daughters Sonia (David) Childress-Hoek, Tina Childress-Brown and Michelle (Don) Nickum; 8 grandchildren Nicholas, Matthew, Alexander, Morgan, Madeline, Sydney, Melina and Pierce; 4 great-grandchildren Mosha, Maverick, Maine and Meadow; and his beloved dog Amie.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Richard Childress.

Services are scheduled for 2 p.m., on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022 at Faith Lutheran Church, 2200 South High St., in Bloomington. Pastor Eric Edwards will officiate. Burial will be at Green Hill Cemetery in Bedford immediately following the funeral service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Humane Society for Hamilton County or the IU school of medicine in honor of Dr. Robert C. Childress.

Online condolences may be made at randallroberts.com

Janice M. Musselman

April 8, 1940-December 20, 2022

Janice M. Musselman, 82, of Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, Dec 20, 2022 at Riverwalk Village in Noblesville.

She was born on April 8, 1940 to Willard and Marjorie (Davis) Kinzer in Noblesville.

Mrs. Musselman was a 1958 graduate of Noblesville High School and was a member of Noblesville Alumni Association. After high school, she worked as a carhop at Wheatons, and a retailer at Suttons Tyne Nook. She also worked as an investigator for C&D Credit Bureau, a loan clerk for American National Bank, a customer service representative at Walmart and a teacher's aide for Tri-County Opportunity School.

Mrs. Musselman had a strong faith and enjoyed going to church. Over the years, she was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Refuge Christian Church, and White River Christian Church.

She loved rollerskating, gardening, and playing euchre and bunco with her group. Mrs. Musselman enjoyed camping and going to the mountains. She had a very generous heart and loved to make people smile. She never met a stranger.

Survivors include her 2 daughters, Debra A. Lorenz and Diane K. Maier; granddaughter Danielle Lorenz (31); 2 grandsons Rhys Maier (17) and Dylan Maier (14); and fiancé Ron Pouch.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Marvin Musselman.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with services scheduled for 1 p.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Rd., in Noblesville. The Rev. Stanley R. Sutton will officiate. Burial to follow at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to White River Christian Church Food Pantry, 1685 N 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060 (wrrc.org).

Online condolences may be made at randallroberts.com

News Brief

Morse Park and Beach Bathhouse Closed for Winter Modernization

The bathhouse at Morse Park & Beach closed to the public today. The building's exterior restrooms are approaching fifty years of age and HCPR has identified the need to modernize these facilities.

The update will also allow for year-round use of the exterior restrooms, providing a much-needed amenity for one of Hamil-

ton County's most heavily trafficked park.

The exterior restrooms are slated to reopen in the spring. When visiting the facility, please note that portable restrooms have been placed in the park for your convenience.

For any questions, comments, or concerns this, the HCPR Administrative Office at (317) 770-4400.

Wandering Through Christmas Memories



TIM TIMMONS

Two Cents

I may have mentioned once or thrice that I love reading some of the folks in our paper. John Marlowe is a friend I've known for decades, although we fell out of touch for a while. Still, his wonderful perspective and amazing wit never cease to entertain . . . and often, make me think. Paula Dunn often shares stories from Hamilton County's past that keep me riveted. And of course Betsy Reason's daily look at life here is always fun to read.

But one column in our Crawfordsville paper from Butch Dale really caught my eye recently. Butch wrote about how kids today spend too much time on electronics, and not enough playing outdoors - or even indoors on non-electronics, like board games. He mentioned BAS-KET. Briefly, this was a basketball court in a box about the size of a TV tray (google it, millenni-

als). There were 12 holes the "basketball" (a ping-pong ball) would fit. Under each of those 12 holes was a lever attached to a spring so that you could "shoot" the ball toward the basket by flipping the lever.

Like many of Butch's wonderful columns, it took me back. My Dad, who was a standout player for Thorntown in the 1950s, loved basketball. When I was really little, he put a nail above a door and hung a clothes basket off it. He'd get on his knees and we would play basketball with a balloon. For a toddler just learning hand-eye coordination the balloon moved at a perfect speed. When I got a little older, Dad and I played BAS-KET. I remember at sectional time, the Noblesville Ledger would run the entire state tournament on a page sponsored by Dahlke Standard, a filling station on the corner of 10th and Conner. Dad and I would then play that entire tournament on our BAS-KET game, a few games each night after he got home from work. I don't remember how long it took, but it seemed like we were getting done about the same time as the real state finals.

What a wonderful memory, and thank you, Butch, for the column that prodded it.

ANOTHER THANK

you goes to Larry in Chattanooga. Larry reads our paper and sent me a note that absolutely floored me.

It's that time of year for Christmas movies - and don't know about you, but my favorites are the classics. Miracle on 34th Street, It's a Wonderful Life . . . and topping the list is White Christmas with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen and Dean Jagger.

Until Larry's e-mail, I never knew that movie had an Indiana connection.

For those familiar, remember the role of Gen. Thomas F. Waverly? He was played by Jagger. Dean was born in Ohio and dropped in and out of school a few times . . . before ending up at little Wabash College over in Crawfordsville. He didn't stay but a year or two and was a member of the Lamda Chi Alpha fraternity as well as the football team. After leaving he did a number of things until he finally landed some acting jobs in Chicago and later New York. He wound up in a gig as Spencer Tracy's replacement and the rest, as they say, is history!

SPEAKING OF

Christmas, this is my last column before the big day.

Of course we won't have an edition that day or the day after, but please allow me to wish you and yours the most blessed Christmas ever! I hope that doesn't offend anyone, but if so, please know that's not the intent. While you are clearly entitled to believe whatever you like, so are those who believe the holiday celebrates the birth of the Christ child. So, from the bottom of my heart, Merry Christmas!

WHILE WE are on the subject of Christmas - check out the Santa Tracker on our website. The wonderful folks at NORAD each year post Christmas games, music, videos and more on the web - and that includes a link to actually track Santa via radar on Christmas Eve. For all you good little boys and girls, be sure to click on it in a couple of days and then get to sleep so the big guy won't skip your house!

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Thursdays in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

Councilwoman Wiles Announces Re-Election Bid

Noblesville Councilwoman Megan Wiles has announced her candidacy for re-election to the Noblesville Common Council, Sixth District. Wiles is seeking her third term on the Council.

As a longtime resident of Noblesville, she has worked to see the history of Noblesville and authentic downtown preserved, while also recognizing the need to embrace growth.

"This is such an exciting time for the City of Noblesville. I am honored to serve on the Noblesville Common Council working with other dedicated Council members and the Administration to lead Noblesville into the future," she said.

She currently serves as Council President and was appointed by Mayor Chris Jensen as co-chair for Noblesville's Bicentennial Committee, along with Bret Richardson. During her second term, Wiles served as Council

Vice President, member of the Finance, Economic Development, Downtown District, and Nominating Committees, as well as a liaison to the Noblesville Arts Council and Parks Board.

"I have loved growing up in Noblesville and feel blessed that my husband and I have been able to raise our family here. As Noblesville continues to grow, we must be ready to invest in our infrastructure and ensure we are providing the appropriate public safety for all residents," Wiles said.

She went on to talk about her time on the board, saying "I'm proud of the work of this current Council; we have dedicated resources to implement significant plans for the future of our community. I believe it's important that we have experienced Council members working with Mayor Jensen to make sure the progress we have made in the last few



Councilwoman Megan Wiles

years continues in a fiscally responsible manner."

Wiles finished by saying, "This is an exciting time to help lead our city forward and I am dedicated to serving the residents of the Sixth District and all of Noblesville."

In her professional career, she serves as the Executive Director of Riverview Health Foundation, where she works to build resources to support programs and projects that benefit patients, staff and their families at Riverview Health.

Community involvement

is important to Wiles - she is a member of the Vestry at St. Michael's Episcopal Church and planning member of its annual Strawberry Festival, a 15-year member of Conner Prairie Alliance, the women's group that operates the Apple Store at Conner Prairie, a committee member for the inaugural Spotlight on Art event benefiting children in Hamilton County and a member of the Hamilton County Republican Women's Club.

She is a graduate of the Hamilton County Leadership Academy and the 29th Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service class.

Wiles and her husband Greg are the proud parents of Garrett and Grace, both college students. Wiles herself is a graduate of Noblesville High School and Ball State University.

She will seek re-election in the 2023 primary on May 2.



Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

Noblesville, Carmel Lions Brave the Cold to Help Gleaners

One week ago, the Noblesville and Carmel Lions helped Gleaners distribute food to 80 to 80 families. It was a very cold evening at Six Points Church in Sheridan. Braving the harsh weather to help out and give back were (from left to right) Lions Jeff Kozicki, Jerry Baker, Mark Bachar, Bill Ryan (Carmel), Joe Connerley, Ron Williamson, Steve of Gleaners and Steve Shaw

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Photos courtesy of Hamilton County

Russian painter Valery Kosorukov (above left) will pair up with Roben Bellomo at the Behn Gallery tonight, as well as for a series of events from January-March of 2023.

American Photographer & Russian Painter Pair Up for Special Exhibit

Award-winning photographer Roben Bellomo is partnering with legendary Russian painter Valery Kosorukov to depict the art of ballet at Carmel's Behn Gallery Studio now through March.

a common muse in this exhibit."

Born in Moscow in 1937, Kosorukov now calls Indianapolis home. Best known for his oil paintings, Kosorukov gained world recognition in the mid-70s for his paintings and drawings of the Bolshoi Theatre and Ballet.

Kosorukov now works in other genres as well, including portraiture, landscapes, and nudes. His works can be found in many public and private collections around the world.

"What an honor it is to work with one of the greats," Bellomo added.

"While we may not share the same medium, we're both working to uphold an art form that began over 500 years ago. In capturing the essence of ballet, we find our place in the stories and learn that we're all connected through art."

Behn Gallery is

committed to featuring artists that provide connections and experiences with and through art. In that effort, the gallery will host a number of interactive opportunities to observe both professionals' work.

Tonight, the gallery will host an open house featuring both artists from 6:30-9 p.m. Together, they will host a Q&A session at 7 p.m.

The following events are also planned:

- Jan. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - o Kosorukov will be in the studio sketching ballet dancers.
- Feb. 24 from 6-8 p.m.
 - o The gallery will host a history of ballet for dancers and ballet enthusiasts as it relates to Kosorukov's work.
- March 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - o Bellomo will be in studio photographing ballet dancers.



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Schools

NHS Senior Signs Football Commitment with Kindergartners
NHS senior and Miller Football offensive lineman Drew Page signed his national letter of intent with Kent State University today at Hinkle Creek Elementary. Page is a former Hinkle Creek cougar who has been cadet teaching at the school this year and wanted his kindergarten students to join in the celebration. He chose Kent State for both their football and academic programs and plans to become a kindergarten teacher.

Legendary Comic Artist Bob Hall to Join NPA for Comic Book Celebration

The Nickel Plate Arts 10th Annual Comic Book in Day Challenge, presented by Browning Day, is scheduled for Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrity special guest and legendary comic artist Bob Hall will be in attendance and assisting participants as a Featured Artist.



a lot was using a story that not only meant a lot to me, but related to others as well. When you make a connection with people, your stories mean a lot more! Art-wise, I always start with thumbnails in my sketchbook before doing anything digital! That way I can see what I want to make before committing a lot of time to the finished piece."

Hall has worked in the comics industry for more than 45 years and has made appearances in numerous comic cons over the past several decades. "I'm looking forward to helping the next generation of artists excel in their work during this extraordinary event," Hall said.

our professional Featured Artists and try your hand at comic-themed art activities. All artwork created in the challenge will be displayed in an exhibit in Ignite Studio and published in a printed comic book.

"Our title sponsor, Browning Day, is the perfect fit for Comic Book in a Day because creativity and artistry are a core part of their design process," said Nickel Plate Arts Director Ailithir McGill. "They encourage their staff to explore a wide range of disciplines."

Nickel Plate Arts will once again partner with the Fishers Library Ignite Studio for this event. Once a participant has registered, they will be added to Nickel Plate Arts' contact list and will receive updates about the details of this incredible event. A registration fee will pay for a copy of the 'Comic Book in a Day' compilation, which will include each participant's work. Drawing supplies to anyone who needs them for this event will be provided.

"Nickel Plate Arts provides the opportunity for continued successes among our community members, pushing the bar higher through events like the Comic Book in a Day Challenge." The annual event features the opportunity to create a comic book from scratch in just 8 hours with the help of Nickel Plate Arts' Featured Artists, including Stuart Sayger, Gavin Smith and other staff members. Hall and the other Featured Artists will be creating alongside participants all day and will be available for questions and coaching. In-person and virtual options are available. This day-long challenge will allow participants to meet other artists and compete for prizes; however, registering for the challenge isn't the only way to enjoy this event. The public is welcome to stop in throughout the day to watch the challenge in progress, meet and shop for artwork from

Nickel Plate Arts will host a series of workshops to help you prepare for the upcoming Comic Book in a Day event. These workshops are open to the public:

- **Jan. 4 from 2-3 p.m.** - Comics Demo by Returning Champion Ella Satterfield - Turning Everyday Experiences into Great Comics
 - **Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m.** - Creative Warm-Up with Bill Wilkison
 - **Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m.** - What Makes a Comic Book? with Gavin Smith
 - **Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m.** - Unconventional Comics with Stuart Sayger
- Visit nickelplatearts.org/comicbookinaday/ for additional information on the workshops.
- Rules and regulations for the challenge can be found on the Nickel Plate Arts website: nickelplatearts.org/signature-events/comic-book-in-a-day/
- Register for the challenge online at nickelplatearts.square.site/product/2022-comic-book-in-a-day-artist-challenge/4167?cs=true&cst=custom. For full event details, visit nickelplatearts.org/event/comic-book-in-a-day-4/
- Learn more about Bob Hall at bobhall.com

Soar with DNR at Eagles Over Monroe

Monroe Lake's Eagles over Monroe event celebrates the reintroduction of bald eagles in Indiana with six days of eagle-related activities.

The event starts with a virtual interview with Lola Nicholson on Jan. 26 at 11:30 a.m. She is the director of Raptors Rise Rehabilitation Center. The event will include a tour of the facility, "hospital" building, and raptor enclosures and can be watched at bit.ly/eom2023-facebooklive.

The International Crane Foundation will discuss cranes in Indiana on Jan. 27, with indoor presentations at Paynetown State Recreation Area (SRA) at 3:30-6:30 p.m. Register at bit.ly/cranes-jan2023-afternoon, for the afternoon session and bit.ly/cranes-jan2023-evening for the evening session.

Take Flight Wildlife Education will host two live raptor presentations on Saturday, Jan. 28 at Paynetown SRA. Each is limited to 40 attendees and the cost is \$5 per person. Register at bit.ly/

[liveraptor-jan28-1pm](http://bit.ly/liveraptor-jan28-1pm) for the 1 p.m. session and bit.ly/liveraptor-jan28-3pm for the 3 p.m. session.

Children can also stop by the Activity Center between 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Jan. 28 to make free, eagle-themed crafts.

Sunset eagle watches will be both Jan. 27 and Jan. 28 from 5-6 p.m. at Paynetown SRA. Monroe Lake volunteers will have spotting scopes set up to help visitors see eagles and other birds. This is in addition to the self-guided driving tour, which is available every day of Eagles over Monroe. The tour will direct visitors to the best locations around the lake to see bald eagles. Information about the tour is at bit.ly/eom2023-drivingtour.

Free cocoa and tea will be available at Fairfax's Big Oak Shelter from 9:45-10:45 a.m. on Jan. 29 for those attending birding walks participating in the self-guided bald eagle driving tour.

A guided hike to the remnants of the bald eagle hacking tower, where eagles were released

during the reintroduction program, will be on Jan. 30 at 1 p.m. Registration for the hike is at bit.ly/hackingtower-jan2023.

Al Parker, a wildlife biologist, will discuss the history of Indiana's bald eagle reintroduction program on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 12:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 18, 1800 W. Third Street, Bloomington.

After Eagles on Monroe, join experienced guides for birding walks in different habitats at Fairfax SRA. Woods and fields will be at 9 a.m. (register at bit.ly/woods-fields-jan2023) and lakeshore will be at 10:30 a.m. (register at bit.ly/lakeshore-birds-jan2023).

A complete guide to Eagles over Monroe programming can be found at bit.ly/eaglesovermonroe2023. Be sure to check this site for event updates, including any weather-related cancellations.

For more information about Eagles over Monroe, call the Paynetown Activity Center at (812) 837-9967 or email Jill Vance at [jvance@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:JVance@dnr.IN.gov).

Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

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Photo courtesy of Noblesville Schools

Indiana Coach of the Year Speaks at Kiwanis About Soccer Excellence
Indiana Boys Soccer Coach of the Year Ken Dollaske (in black) and Miller Boys Soccer team captains Owen Mejia and Landon Huber (in Gray) were featured speakers at this morning's Noblesville Sunrises Kiwanis meeting at Ginger's Cafe. They spoke about their back-to-back state championships and the culture of soccer excellence they've built at Noblesville High School. Photographed above with Mejia, Huber and Dollaske is Kiwanian Ted Mahnensmith, Huber (in red).

Purdue to Offer New, Fully Online Master of Science in International Agribusiness

Purdue University is offering a new fully online Professional Master of Science in International Agribusiness aimed at agribusiness professionals worldwide. Applications are being taken now, and the program launches in January 2023.

The new degree is particularly valuable for learners looking to enhance their skills in data analytics, quantitative data analysis and data-based decision-making. This knowledge is applicable whether they work in industry or government, management or marketing, and in a range of areas from commercial agriculture to food product development and production, and from natural resources management to managing supply chains.

The program also teaches a skill set applicable to working in the fast-paced global economy in general, as well as the dynamic, rapidly growing international agribusiness and food industry specifically.

While the 100% online option is new, the mature, rigorous curriculum has been taught and refined for a decade by Purdue's Department of Agricultural Economics faculty, who excel at teaching, research and engagement in their field. Each of the instructors also has multiple years of experience teaching in online and hybrid modes.



In addition to the required courses, students choose one of two specialized online graduate certificates – in Spatial Data Science or in Biotechnology Quality and Regulatory Compliance, the latter from Purdue's top-ranked (U.S. News & World Report) Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. The graduate certificate satisfies 12 credits of the 36 needed to earn the full master's degree in international agribusiness.

Learners should be able to complete the degree in 18-24 months. The coursework is asynchronous, making it readily accessible for working professionals or new graduates who are ready to start work but also want to earn an advanced degree.

"That makes it nice for time management, and it also makes it work across time zones," said Nicole Widmar, associate head of the agricultural economics department and graduate program chair.

Some previous knowledge of quantitative methods is helpful, Widmar said, but students do not need to have a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics to enroll in the master's program. The degree is attainable for someone with a background in related

fields such as marketing food products or land management, for example.

Core courses include:

- Applied Quantitative Methods for Decision Making
- Economics for Food and Agribusiness Managers
- Communication and Issues Engagement for Agricultural Professionals
- Problem Solving and Project Management for Decision Makers
- Quantitative Managerial Decision Making
- The Macroeconomic Trade and Policy Environment of the Food System
- Strategic Food and Agribusiness Management

In addition, core requirements include a capstone course with an analytic paper, which can be either academic in nature or work related, in lieu of a thesis.

The two graduate certificates also can be taken separately from the master's program.

The online Biotechnology Quality and Regulatory Compliance Graduate Certificate is designed to provide professionals education on important aspects of the topic on the way to becoming leaders in pharmaceutical, medical device and biotechnology industries.

The curriculum covers

drug development, regulatory practices, quality management and the molecular basis of manufacturing pharmaceuticals, among other topics.

The online Graduate Certificate in Spatial Data Science teaches how to use big data to make a big impact in agriculture and land management while mastering key concepts of geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial data science, including data sources, projections, spatial data processing and analysis methods, data and metadata creation, as well as a conceptual framework for solving spatial problems.

For more information about Purdue's online Master of Science in International Agribusiness and to apply, visit ag.purdue.edu/department/agecon/international-programs/pmia/online.html.

SERVPRO Set to Kick Off 5th First Responder Bowl

In recognition of the service and sacrifice of thousands of first responders nationwide, SERVPRO will host the fifth annual SERVPRO First Responder Bowl at SMU's Gerald J. Ford Stadium in Dallas, Texas. The University of Memphis Tigers will face off against the Utah State University Aggies. Kickoff is set for Dec. 27 at 3:15 on ESPN.

"This game shines a spotlight on hometown heroes across the country," said Rick Isaacson, CEO of Servpro Industries, LLC. "We are proud to be a company that honors all first responders for willingly putting the welfare of others ahead of their own personal safety."

Nationwide, SERVPRO franchises, including SERVPRO franchises in the Noblesville area, were asked to submit the name of a first responder from their hometown to be considered for special recognition at the game. This year, SERVPRO is honoring Cpl. Phillip Zonn and POFC. Geobani Guerra of the Prince George's County (Maryland) Police Department.

Zonn and Guerra were both separately traveling home from their shift when they approached a vehicle that had been involved in an accident. The two officers bravely worked to cut the unconscious and injured driver free from the burning vehicle before it was engulfed in flames.

The First Responder Bowl caps off a year of significant support from SERVPRO for first responder communities across the country. Following Hurricane Ian, SERVPRO, in

partnership with First Responders Children's Foundation (FRCF), a nonprofit organization that aids the children and families of first responders, provided \$150,000 in financial grants to 80 first responders affected by the storm. (1strcf.org/ian/).

In addition, SERVPRO performed, at no charge, mitigation services to begin restoring the homes of ten first responders affected by Ian.

SERVPRO is also celebrating community and individual participation in the game. First responders nationwide will enjoy the game with first responder tailgate boxes, filled with tailgate goodies, purchased by their local SERVPRO franchisee and delivered to their local fire stations and public safety offices in time for the game.

Fans in the Noblesville area can show their support for first responders by taking and posting a selfie with the hashtag #MySelfieGives while watching the game in person or on TV. SERVPRO will donate \$100, up to \$25,000, to the FRCF for each selfie posted during the game.

Tickets for the SERVPRO First Responder Bowl are available now at firstresponderbowl.com/ticket-op. First responders are eligible for up to four complimentary tickets to the game. SERVPRO, as a presenting sponsor, also honors first responders at 12 additional bowl games, including the Armed Forces Bowl and the Frisco Bowl, with the "Honor a Responder" award.

*For SERVPRO of Hamilton County, contact Mike Johnson at (317) 773-0422 or office@servproindynorth.com

The Sky is the Limit with IWU, ATP Flight School Partnership



Indiana Wesleyan University-National & Global has partnered with ATP Flight School, the largest flight training company in the United States, to create streamlined degree pathways for pilots who complete their FAA Certificate through ATP. Alumni who enroll at IWU can count their flight training experience as degree credit and receive a ten percent tuition discount on select programs.

"We provide a generous pathway for ATP Flight School graduates by granting 30 credits toward an undergraduate degree," said Dr. Joe Childs, director of aviation programs at IWU.

"The earned FAA Certificates and ratings are articulated as credit by assessment."

IWU and ATP are addressing the impending pilot shortage by meeting the need for flexible, accessible degree programs for pilots, whose busy and variable work schedules often make obtaining a degree difficult. IWU's programs are offered 100% online in a five- or six-week asynchronous format, allowing pilots to complete requirements as they can.

Through the partnership, ATP alumni can receive a ten percent discount on the associate-level professional pilot degree, bachelor of science in aviation management, master of

science in management, or master of business administration.

"ATP is proud to partner with IWU and bring this degree pathway to aspiring pilots," said Michael Arnold, director of marketing at ATP Flight School. "Students at ATP have the competitive edge of training and becoming an airline pilot on the fastest timeline possible, and now in partnership with IWU, they'll have a flexible solution for earning a degree and further broadening their career opportunities."

"Earning or upgrading a degree from IWU enables ATP Flight School graduates to enhance their leadership and critical thinking skills, essential for safe operations," said Dr. Childs.

To learn more about IWU's aviation program, visit IWUaviation.com

To learn about ATP, visit atpflightschool.com

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Kettler Steps Down as ISDA Director



On Wednesday, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch announced the resignation of Bruce Kettler, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Kettler's last day will be Jan. 6, 2023.

"Bruce is a lifelong member of the agriculture community and understands the significant role the ag industry plays in Indiana," said Gov. Eric Holcomb. "Through his dedication and commitment, he has elevated Indiana's agribusiness development through innovation and a future-focused economy, and his leadership has set the agriculture ecosystem up for long-term success."

Kettler was appointed to his position in January 2018 by Governor Eric Holcomb. He currently serves as the first vice president on the Nation-

al Association of State Departments of Agriculture Board of Directors.

"As director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Bruce has been a strong voice for Hoosier farmers and the state's entire agricultural industry," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development.

"His leadership and stewardship have been invaluable, and I wish him well as he transitions back into the private sector."

Under Kettler, the ISDA:

1. Expanded growth opportunities for Indiana agriculture through a) development of the rural economic development model and data access for rural economic development professionals, b) advancement of the Indiana



Gov. Eric Holcomb

Hardwoods strategy and c) implementation of Indiana Dairy Strategy 2.0.

2. Continued strong growth in soil conservation with increased cover crop adoption and money going to farmers for soil conservation and water quality priorities.

3. Led the Indiana agriculture industry through the COVID-19 pandemic through communication, cooperation and regular stakeholder meetings. His leadership minimized delays and duplication of efforts in the industry during the rapidly changing COVID-19 landscape.

Though Kettler is stepping down from his ISDA position, he will continue to be an advocate for the agricultural industry as he



Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch

becomes the new CEO and President of the Agribusiness Council of Indiana.

"Thank you to Governor Holcomb and Lt. Gov. Crouch for asking me to serve the State of Indiana," said Kettler. "Serving the farmers, businesses and citizens of Indiana has been an honor that I could not have imagined even a few years ago. My five years at the Indiana State Department of Agriculture will hold a special place in my professional career. Leading the team of dedicated individuals working at ISDA has been very rewarding, and I know they will continue their dedication for the next director."

A search will begin immediately for a successor to Kettler.

Hoosier Hoops HOF Names Women's Silver Anniversary Team, Center Circle Officials

Eighteen women have been named to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame's 2023 Silver Anniversary Team, based on outstanding accomplishments as a senior basketball player 25 years ago.

The team includes 12 members named to the 1998 Indiana All-Star squad. Six other all-state players are included to recognize the top of Indiana's high school class of 1998.

1998 Indiana All-Stars include Miss Basketball Kelly Komara, Kyle (Black) Rechlicz, Kristen (Bodine) Lovell, Kelly N. Kuhn, Mary Jo Noon, Vnemina (Reese) Cooper, Courtney (Risinger) Lloyd, Abby (Salscheider) Ault, Amber (Schober) Aryee, Shana (Sparks) Williams, April Traylor and Amy Wright.

The remaining six, named to various all-state teams are Abbe (Brauman) Harvey, Jill (Chapman) Daily, Lisa (Eckhart) Ruble, Molly (Holt) Sabol, Kara Kessans and the late Amy (Lindsay) Fuller.

2023 Women's Silver Anniversary Team members will be honored at the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame's Awards Banquet on April 29, 2023.

A midday reception, free and open to the public, will be held at the Hall of Fame museum in New Castle. The evening banquet will take place at the Primo Banquet Hall, which is located on the south side of Indianapolis.

Banquet reservations will be available through the Hall's website at hoopshall.com or by calling (765) 529-1891 beginning in January. For more information, email kayla@hoopshall.com

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame also recognized two officials for their contribution as high school girls' basketball officials as the 2023 Women's Center

Circle Officials Award winners.

Andy Simpson of Crown Point and Greg Reece of New Castle will be acknowledged for their officiating careers.

Andy Simpson has worked 34 sectionals, 18 regionals, 13 semi-states and 7 state finals. He is a member of the Lake County Officials Association and has been an assigner, basketball chairman, member at large, Past President and Secretary. He also has served on the ISHOLA board since 2014, along with being a lead clinician and rules interpreter for the IHSAA.

Simpson worked the HOF Classic in 2010 and 2017. He was awarded the Outstanding Girls' Basketball Official of the Year in 2017 and the Outstanding Boys' Basketball Official in 2020. He currently works as a Golf Director at Sandy Pines Golf Club.

Greg Reece has worked 29 sectionals, 22 regionals, seven semi-states and three state finals (2005, 2010, 2013) in girls' basketball, along with 22 boys' sectionals and 12 boys' regionals and three HOF Classics.

A member of Eastern Indiana Officials Association and IOA, Reece played tennis at New Castle H.S. He retired as a manager in the office of the Auditor of the State of Indiana.

Center Circle Officials Award winners will be honored at the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame's 21st Women's Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 29, 2023. The ceremony will take place at the Primo Banquet Hall, which is located on the south side of Indianapolis. Tickets for the event will be available online soon. Call the Hall at (765) 529-1891 or email kayla@hoopshall.com for more information.



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15
Dearborn

Number % ÷ Stumpers

1. What percentage of land is possessed by Lawrenceburg? \geq
2. How many individuals do not reside in Lawrenceburg? \leq
3. How old is Dearborn County? \geq
4. What is the population density of the county? \leq

Answers: 1. About 1.8% 2. 45,079 Individuals 3. 215 Years 4. 163/square mile

Did You Know?

- Dearborn County was found in 1803 and named after Dr. Henry Dearborn.
- The county has a population of 50,047 individuals and a land area of 307.42 square miles.
- Lawrenceburg, the county seat, has a total land area of 5.56 square miles.
- The southeastern county line is formed by the Ohio River.
- Lawrenceburg has an estimated 4,968 residents.

Got Words?

Dearborn County is home to Perfect North Slopes ski resort. The resort offers tubing and a variety of ski slopes with varying difficulties. How do you think resorts, such as Perfect North, play a role in the ecosystem and community of small towns?

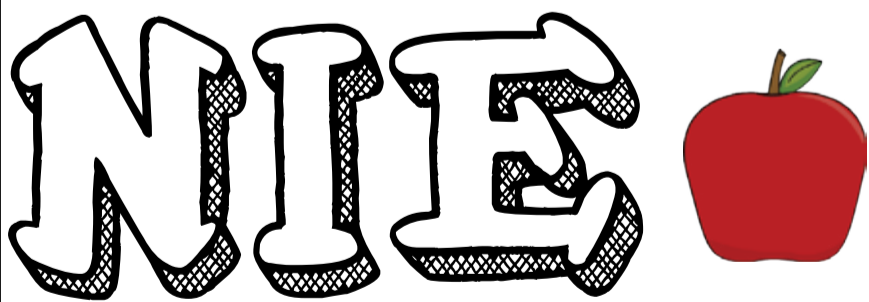
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. OIOH VERRI
2. WRLAREECNBGU
3. ECREFT NRHTO
4. ADRORENB YCNUOT
5. ISK EPSSLO

Answers: 1. Ohio River 2. Lawrenceburg 3. Perfect North 4. Dearborn County 5. Ski Slopes

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THURSDAY

Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022

A9

Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana Broadband Office Designates the City of South Bend as the State's 75th Broadband Ready Community

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) announced the City of South Bend as the state's 75th Broadband Ready Community. At a press conference Wednesday, Dec. 14, representatives from IBO and the Indiana Office of Rural Affairs (OCRA) celebrated the accomplishment.

The Broadband Ready Communities Program was created as a tool to encourage broadband development throughout Indiana. The Broadband Ready Community certification sends a signal to the telecommunication industry that a community has taken steps to reduce barriers to

broadband infrastructure investment.

"We are encouraged that communities across the state are taking the steps to become more connected and enhance their quality of life by becoming Broadband Certified," Lt. Gov. Crouch said. "Congratulations to South Bend for prioritizing this initiative and working collaboratively to further spearhead your community's broadband investment."

The certification was approved by the Indiana Broadband Office following the City of South Bend's adoption of a Broadband Ready Community ordinance.

"Broadband is essen-

tial for our students, job seekers, businesses and entrepreneurs," said Mayor James Mueller. "I thank Governor Holcomb's administration and the Indiana Legislature for helping South Bend become a Broadband Ready Community. We look forward to continued collaboration with the state on digital infrastructure and equity programming."

Earnie Holtrey, Deputy Director at the Indiana Broadband Office, said nearly 15 communities have become Broadband Ready Communities in 2022.

"It's been another aggressive year with communities across the

state becoming Broadband Ready," said Holtrey. "With our 75th community now certified, South Bend has joined a running list of Hoosier cities, towns, counties and regions who are taking notice and investing in themselves. Congratulations!"

Via 2020 legislation, the Broadband Ready Community Program was transitioned from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). IBO began the day-to-day management of the Broadband Ready Community Program on July 1, 2020. For more information, visit in.gov/indianabroadband.

Lost Creek - Celebrating the Story of an African American Settlement

Art Spaces, Inc. is seeking an artist or artist team interested in creating a public sculpture to honor, celebrate and bring awareness to the Lost Creek Settlement. It is intended that the work be completed in 2023.

The Lost Creek Settlement was formed by a group of Free African Americans who, in order to escape the danger of the pre-Civil War South, settled in what is now Vigo County. Though it was still dangerous in Indiana, they established a thriving farming community with a church, cemetery, general store, blacksmith and school, employing their own teachers when it was forbidden to educate African American students in public schools.

The Lost Creek Settlement is a vital part of the Vigo County shared history. Its descendants (many of whom still live in the region) continue to have impact locally, regionally, statewide and nationally. Some of the descendants are among Art Spaces' many partners on the project. The sculpture will be located in Deming Park, on Terre Haute's east side, and will be owned by the City.

Art Spaces is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide public art and the design of public places to enhance

economic growth, enrich cultural experiences and build a legacy that reflects the diversity of the Wabash Valley Community. Art Spaces' has successfully installed twenty-one public artworks between 2005 and 2022, all of which are freely accessible to the public.

Up to three finalists will be selected through the RFQ Submissions and will be asked to conduct Site Visits prior to submitting a Full Proposal (expenses of this visit will be covered by Art Spaces). At that time, each finalist will have the opportunity to study the selected site, talk with local project partners and learn more about the history of Lost Creek. After completing their proposals, each finalist will receive a stipend.

Celebrating Lost Creek - The Story of an African American settlement will offer added appreciation of the diverse populations that have shaped and continue to animate the City and Region. Educational programs will be developed in conjunction with the installation of the new sculpture.

This project is supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts, Wabash Valley Community Foundation, 100+ Women Who Care, and The Larry Paul Foundation.

To apply, visit wabashvalleyartspaces.com

IDEM Seeks Nominations for the 2023 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management today announced that the agency is now accepting nominations for the 2023 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. This marks the 30th year the awards have been given to celebrate innovative projects with measurable environmental benefits. Watch the Governor's call for nominations video.

"It is always an honor for IDEM to recognize these outstanding Hoosiers who are choosing to go above and beyond to make a difference in Indiana's environment," said Commissioner Brian Rockensuess. "I encourage Hoosiers to submit their applications for their innovative projects, and I look forward to celebrating this year's honorees and their many contributions to



our state."

Presented annually since 1994, the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence has become one of Indiana's most prestigious environmental awards. In 2022, award winners included: Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, LLC, Paramount Schools of Excellence, As-

traZeneca Mount Vernon Operations, Indianapolis Public Schools, Big Pine Creek Watershed, Cummins Inc., and the City of Monticello

This year, IDEM and Governor Eric J. Holcomb's office will present seven awards, one in each of the following categories: Energy Efficiency/Renewable Resources; Environmental Education/Outreach; Five Year Continuous Improvement; Greening the Government; Land Use/Conservation; Pollution Prevention; and, Recycling/Reuse.

Citizens, government agencies, businesses, organizations, and educational institutions are invited to submit nominations. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominated projects must have occurred in Indiana and been implemented in 2021

or 2022.

The deadline for nominations is March 6, 2023. Awards will be presented in September. A panel of conservation, environmental, and academic professionals review nominations. The awards will be based on project innovation, measurable results, and transferability. Nomination forms and instructions are available at idem.IN.gov/partnerships/governors-awards-for-environmental-excellence/.

About IDEM: Established in 1986, IDEM (www.idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting Hoosiers and Indiana's environment.

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A10

Wabash College's Cooper Smith '23 Earns Marshall Scholarship

Wabash College student Cooper Smith '23 has earned a Marshall Scholarship, one of the most coveted competitive international fellowships.

A native of Sellersburg, Indiana, Smith earned the two-year fellowship from the Marshall Commission, which looks for candidates who have the potential to excel as scholars, as leaders, and as contributors to improved U.K.-U.S. understanding. During his two-year award, Smith will pursue a master of letters degree in legal and constitutional studies at the University of St. Andrews and a master of science in democracy and comparative politics at University College London.

Smith is the fifth Wabash student to win a Marshall Scholarship, and the first since Thomas Halverson '87 was selected in 1989. Typically, fewer than 50 Americans receive the award annually, selected from nearly 1,200 nominated students.

"This is a dream come true," said Smith. "This is my opportunity to learn and explore before returning to the U.S. for law school. I've wanted this opportunity for so long, but it always felt more like a fantasy than a realistic chance. As soon as I heard, 'Congratulations, you've been selected as a 2023 Marshall Scholar,' I teared up. I knew this would be a game-changer for me, as it will help me do the work I'm passionate about."

A political science and history double major, Smith is currently the editor-in-chief of The Bachelor, the College's student newspaper. He is a two-time winner of the Wabash Moot Court competition, has served

Wabash.

as a writing fellow in the Wabash Writing Center, and is a section leader of the Wabash Glee Club.

Beyond the Wabash campus, Smith has served internships with the Legal Aid Society of Louisville, Kentucky, the Innocence Project of Florida, and the Office of the Indiana Attorney General, each providing important preparation for his planned career as a public interest attorney and advocate.

Additionally, he has studied abroad in Valparaíso, Chile, where he researched the constitutional convention that was in progress there. Last year, he was one of 58 recipients of a Harry S. Truman Scholarship, awarded to promising young leaders and future public servants.

"The Marshall Scholarship is one of the most important graduate fellowships offered, and Cooper is a terrific match for the program's aims and mission," said Susan Albrecht, Wabash College fellowship advisor. "It takes much more than being academically talented and widely involved on campus to secure a Marshall. A student must also exhibit significant leadership potential, propose a program that includes strong rationale for study in the U.K., and demonstrate a desire to engage fully in the community while abroad."

"I continue to be impressed with Cooper's level of intellect and his ability to think critically about complicated topics and concepts," said Sabrina Thomas, associate professor of history and

department chair. "However, it is his empathy that stands out most—his ability to recognize and appreciate how power and policies operate and how they affect the lives of real people who are too often victims of both forces. With all of his accolades, Cooper is committed to righting some of the wrongs in the world one historical narrative and one court case at a time. I believe I can speak for the entire history department when I say how proud we are of Cooper. His presence in our classes and on our campus has made each of us better."

Cooper is the latest to join the ranks of Wabash men who have earned highly competitive fellowships in the last decade, including, among others, a Rhodes Scholar, an Obama Voyager Scholar, 25 Gilman Scholars, and 26 Fulbright recipients.

"The Marshall Scholarship will help train me to be a better scholar and advocate," said Smith. "I hope to become an appellate or postconviction litigator focused on criminal justice reform and use practice and scholarship to make a real difference. My two years in the U.K. will add a new dimension to my research on legal history, democratic institutions, and constitutional design. The U.S. and U.K. share many common legal, political, and criminal justice crises. By studying U.K. solutions to common crises, I can shape my thinking about proper legal and political reforms for both countries."

Indiana Farm Bureau President Reflects on Challenging Year; Cautiously Looks to 2023

Each year at the Indiana Farm Bureau State Convention, the organization's president reflects on the past year with members from across the state.

INFB President Randy Kron shared his thoughts in his annual address last night, where he and host Gerry Dick, veteran broadcaster and host of Inside Indiana Business, had a frank conversation about the ag economy and the challenges that may await farmers in 2023.

Kron, who is entering his eighth year as INFB president, discussed some of the most important issues facing agriculture today, starting with the ag economy and what a challenging year 2022 turned out to be due to universal price increases for inputs, including seed and herbicides, but especially fertilizer and fuel.

"It was a challenging planting season for so many reasons," explained Kron. "Fertilizer and fuel are two of the largest line items when it comes to row crop farming. It cost more to put a crop in the ground this year than most of us have seen in our lifetimes."

"And grain farmers aren't the only ones facing challenges. Disease pressure, market volatility, rising feed costs and inflation are on the minds of the livestock and poultry sectors too."

Kron provided insight into some of the factors causing input price increases. The first being



the supply chain. Kron clarified there have been a number of reasons for an impacted supply chain, including lingering effects of COVID-19, last year's Hurricane Ida that damaged fertilizer plants on the Gulf Coast and the war in Ukraine. He also noted the lack of supplies affected farmers' ability to get equipment and parts in a timely manner, which added to the challenges of this year.

Despite these difficulties, Kron said farmers are still eternal optimists.

"I've farmed for 39 years, and one thing has remained the same over all those years – I always think next year will be better," said Kron. "I think every farmer thinks next year will be better – we have to. I guess it comes down to our love for the land."

Kron did note that this year's harvest turned out better than expected for most Indiana farmers. Even though supply was tight, demand was high, so farmers have received good prices for their crops. Therefore, most farmers are remaining profitable this year because margins are good, despite all the issues faced during planting season.

Kron was cautious in his outlook for 2023. "The

supply chain will still be impacted, meaning input prices will remain high, but crop prices will likely come down, causing margins to be tight."

When asked about national issues in 2023, Kron stated that Farm Bureau will have an important job in the farm bill debate – a piece of national legislation that governs many agricultural and food programs. Specifically, Kron mentioned how critical the legislation is for farmers in terms of crop insurance, but also the importance the farm bill has on nutrition. Seventy-five to eighty percent of the farm bill is centered on nutrition, providing significant benefits to low-income families through food programs, like the SNAP initiative.

Kron closed by thanking staff, volunteers, members and his family for their support throughout the year.

"Even when things are at their toughest, Hoosier farmers rise to the challenge. And we will do that in the coming year," said Kron. "Farmers aren't afraid of hard work."

The 2022 INFB State Convention continues through Saturday, Dec. 17 and includes a brand-new trade show, AgriConnect, featuring agribusinesses, breakout sessions covering topics top-of-mind to farmers and keynote speakers.

The 2023 INFB State Convention will be held Dec. 14-16 in Fort Wayne, Ind.

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